

**REMARKS**

Claims 4-13, 15-40 and 52-57 are pending. Claims 1-3, 14 and 41-51 have been canceled.

New process claims 53 to 57 correspond to currently filed claims 4 to 8, respectively and 15-19, respectively. Also, support for claims 53-57 can be found in the disclosures of the original English specification at page 22, lines 15 - 19; page 33, lines 5 and below; from line 19 on page 36 to line 14 of page 37; on page 81, lines 6 and the following; and on page 118, lines 2 and the following.

No new matter has been added by way of the above-amendment.

**Prior Art Based Issues**

Claims 4-13 and 15-40 remain rejected and newly added claim 52 stands newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 974 617 (EP'617) in view of EP 976 782 (EP'782). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants comments regarding the patentability of the present invention over the teachings of the cited references as appearing in the July 19, 2006 Amendment are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

It is further submitted that new claims 53-57 are patentable over the cited references, which will become apparent to the Examiner upon consideration thereof.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq. Reg. No. 43,575 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Application No. 10/069,603  
Amendment dated December 19, 2006  
After Final Office Action of January 20, 2006

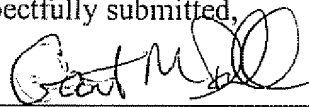
Docket No.: 0992-0128P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By

 #43575

Marc S. Weiner, Registration No.: 32,181 for  
Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Registration No. 43,575  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Road  
Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000  
Attorney for Applicant